

States Issue Contaminated Drugs For **Back Pain**

This Could Be You. It almost certainly could have been me. The Pharmacy Industry through means of your Health Maintenance Organization can be poisoning you. Sure the FDA attributes such things to oversight, and they investigate after the fact. However, the fact is, one such case of contamination is far too many when it deals with the lives of people relegated to the care of fortune hunters. In the article, we can take particular notice that the State of Connecticut provides this sub par medical care to the citizens of the state and its' employees. In fact, the terms and conditions implemented into law regarding medical care for certain members of the healthcare platform requires this type treatment. It is basically unregulated and cheap medical care services instituted by the Department of Labor, Administrative Services and Workers Compensation Commission..

Dr. Russell of the Hospital of St. Raphael's and Chapel Pain Management Clinic(sic) along with the treating physician handling my disability compensation care thought it was not necessary to worry about such issues that are discussed in the following article. Physicians have no problem with assigning patients medical pain relief such as described in the article. Just think, when the medication doesn't work or creates an even bigger medical issue, you are at the mercy of their "care", so to speak. Then, you have to trust them to fix the worsening problem. The same circumstances of pain "mismanagement" happened to corrections officers that were injured during the same incident that causes my disabilities. Like the people suffering in the following article, state employees, are worse off from the very same surgical procedures recommended by the medical profession relating to their care.

Case count rises to 91 in fungal meningitis **outbreak**

By Maggie Fox, NBC News

At least 91 people have been infected with an unusual type of meningitis caused by contaminated steroid injections, federal health officials said Sunday, with seven deaths. They are urging anyone who has had an injection for lower back pain to watch for symptoms of meningitis, which include a stiff neck and balance problems.

Cases have been identified in nine states and health officials fear the numbers will rise as doctors check patients for the symptoms. Doctors and patients alike may not know to look for the unusual infection, which can take weeks to develop after an injection. "Several of these patients have had [strokes](#) related to the meningitis," the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says in a statement [posted on its website](#). "In several patients, the meningitis was found to be caused by a fungus that is common in the environment but rarely causes meningitis. This form of meningitis is not contagious. The source of the fungus has not yet been identified, and the cause of infections in the other patients is still being assessed."

The drug in question is called methylprednisone and is used mostly to treat older patients for lower back pain..

The contaminated drugs have been traced to a single pharmacy in Massachusetts, the New England Compounding Center. The pharmacy has closed voluntarily and [recalled its products](#), which include steroids, painkillers and dozens of [other drugs](#). At least one sealed vial of drug has been found to have fungus growing in it, the Food and Drug Administration says. The FDA does not regulate pharmacies like the one in Massachusetts but can be called in when contamination is suspected. Compounding pharmacies usually make drugs to order, and the steroids suspected of causing the infections did not contain preservatives that can keep fungi and bacteria from growing.

The pharmacy sent products to clinics in California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Texas, and West Virginia, the CDC says.

In this case, the patients appear to have had contaminated drugs injected directly into their spinal fluid. CDC says the clinics do not appear to be to blame. The CDC says it has found fungus, including *Aspergillus* and *Exserohilum*, in specimens from 9 patients. Meningitis is an inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Bacteria or viruses are the usual cause, but meningitis can also be caused by fungi and parasites. "In addition to typical meningitis symptoms, like headache, fever, nausea, and stiffness of the neck, people with fungal meningitis may also experience confusion, dizziness, and discomfort from bright lights. Patients might just have one or two of these symptoms," CDC says.